

REMARKS

Claims 2-5 and 8-12 are pending in the application. Claim 6 has been cancelled.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C.§102(b)

Claim 6 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C.§102(b) as being anticipated by Takahashi et al., International Immunol. 6:1567-1574(1994) and Mita et al., Biochem. & Biophysical Research Comm. 204:468-474 (1994). Claim 6 has been cancelled. As such, the rejection is rendered moot.

Claims 2-5 and 8-12 have been indicated as allowable in the Office Action of August 26, 2003. As the above-indicated amendments and remarks address and overcome the rejections of the claims, withdrawal of the rejections and issuance of the Notice of Allowability are respectfully requested.

Information Disclosure Statement

Applicants have not received an initialed Form PTO-1449 for the IDS filed on March 17, 2000. Consideration of the references and return of the initialed Form PTO-1449 to Applicants.

Should the Examiner have any questions regarding the above-indicated application she is requested to please contact MaryAnne Armstrong, PhD (Reg. No. 40,069) in the Washington DC area at (703) 205-8000.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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